

DOGM
MINERALS PROGRAM
FILE COPY

April 17, 1989

TO: Wayne Hedberg, Permit Lead

FROM: Scott Johnson, Reclamation Engineer *Scott*

RE: Waterfowl Losses on the Tailings Dam, Escalante Silver
Mine, Hecla Mining Company, M/021/004, Iron County, Utah

On April 13, 1989, Mark Holden of Wildlife Resources called the Division to report suspected waterfowl losses on the Escalante tailings dam. He believes the waterfowl mortality rates may have increased dramatically since the mine stopped pumping water to the surface. Mark thinks the alternate landing spots for the birds have dried up, forcing the birds to the tailings dam.

On April 14, 1989, I met with Doug Messerly of Wildlife Resources to inspect the tailings impoundment. We arrived on site at 2:00 p.m. and Bill Truman, Plant Superintendent, accompanied us to the pond. Scott Hartman, the former general manager at Escalante, is now at the Apex site. His replacement, Brent Willoughby, was unavailable during the inspection.

Doug and I walked the shoreline on the south half of the pond and discovered the following dead waterfowl:

2	Gulls
1	Buffleheaded Drake
1	Common Merganser
2	Green-winged Teal
1	Pintail Drake
2	Pintail Hen
1	Mallard Drake
1	Cinnamon Teal
1	Ruddy Duck Hen
2	Avocet
2	Black-necked Stilt
1	Unidentified small shore bird

Several living birds were observed on the water and along the shore during the inspection. One avocet was near death and was killed by Doug. A Mallard Drake was also near death, but it was not close to the shore and we were unable to reach it. We photographed and buried the birds.

Page 2
Memo
Wayne Hedberg
April 17, 1989

Mr. Truman had cleaned the pond and shoreline three days prior to our inspection. During these three days, 20 or more birds died on the pond. The propane cannons were operating frequently during the inspection, but seemed to have little effect on the live birds.

A letter will be sent to the operator to instruct the operator to initiate measures to prevent further mortalities.

jb
cc: Holland Shepherd
MN17/37-38